## STATE OF ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF: WORLDBANC FINANCIAL GROUP
GROUP, INC., Its Officers, Directors, Employees, Successors, Agents
and Assigns, and Gray Shelton, individually.

File No. 0800054

## **TEMPORARY ORDER OF PROHIBITION**

TO THE RESPONDENT:

Mr. Gray Shelton

C/o Baxter, Howard & Shelton, LLP d/b/a Worldbanc Financial Group, ULP 705 East 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 203

South Holland, Illinois 60473

Baxter, Howard & Shelton, LLP

d/b/a Worldbanc Financial Group, ULP

705 East 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 203 South Holland, Illinois 60473

On information and belief, I, Jesse White, Secretary of State for the State of Illinois, through my designated representative, having been fully advised in the premises by the staff of the Illinois Securities Department, Office of the Secretary of State, herein find:

- 1. That Respondent Worldbanc Financial Group, ULP ("Worldbanc") is an Ohio LP/LLLP, authorized to do business in Illinois, whose last known registered address is C/o Baxter, Howard & Shelton, LLP, d/b/a Worldbanc Financial Group, ULP, 705 East 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 203, South Holland, Illinois 60473.
- 2. That Respondent Gray Shelton ("Shelton" together with Worldbanc "the Respondents") is an individual, listed as the managing partner and registered agent whose mailing address is C/o Baxter, Howard & Shelton, LLP, d/b/a Worldbanc Financial Group, ULP, 705 East 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 203, South Holland, Illinois 60473.
- 3. That on or about July 18, 2008, Worldbane, through its representatives, its Officers, Directors, Employees, Affiliates, Successors, Agents and Assigns, offered to procure a loan for at least one (1) individual (the "Borrower") in return for an advance fee of Three Thousand (\$3,000.00) Dollars, which was prepaid by the Borrower.

4. That the above-referenced business entity, Worldbanc, is a loan broker as that term is defined pursuant to Section 15-5.15. of the Illinois Loan Brokers Act of 1995 [815 ILCS 175/15-1 et seq.] (the "Act").

## Failure to Register

- 5. That Section 15-10 of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of loan brokering unless registered under the Act.
- 6. That Section 15-85. of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that it is prohibited under the Act for a loan broker to either directly or indirectly act as a loan broker without registration under the Act unless exempt under the Act.
- 7. That at all times relevant hereto, Worldbanc Commercial Group, Inc., its Officers, Directors, Employees, Affiliates, Successors, Agents and Assigns, and Gray Shelton, individually have failed to file an application for registration as a loan broker with the Secretary of State prior to the aforementioned loan offer in the State of Illinois.
- 8. That by virtue of the foregoing, Worldbanc Commercial Group, Inc., its Officers, Directors, Employees, Affiliates, Successors, Agents and Assigns, and Gray Shelton, individually have violated Section 15-10 and/or 15-85(b) of the Act.

## Failure to Respond to Request for Information

- 9. That on Januarry 21, 2009, and March 24, 2009 the Department issued duplicate letters pursuant to Section 15-45 of the Act (the "15-45(a)(2) and (8) Letter"), which informed Respondents that it had come to the Department's attention that Respondents had engaged in the business of Loan Brokering in Illinois. The Department advised the Respondents to file an affidavit setting forth, among other things, in part the following information:
  - 1. Copies of all advertising and promotional literature or other documents related to the brokering of the referenced loan(s) to Illinois residents between 6 years ago and the present date.
  - 2. A signed statement setting forth the following:
    - a. Statement detailing the manner in which prospective borrowers' names are or were obtained.

- b. A statement detailing the manner in which prospective borrowers are or were initially contacted.
- 10. That Respondent Shelton acknowledged receipt of the "15-45(a)(2) and (8) Letter by placing his signature on the Postal Service Form 3811 receipt on March 26, 2009, but failed to respond to the query with an affidavit as required.
- 11. That Section 15-85(b)(2) of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that it shall be a violation for any person to fail to file with the Secretary of State any application, report or document required to be filed under the provisions of the Act or any rule or regulation made by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Act.
- 12. That by virtue of the foregoing, Respondents have violated Section 15-85(b)(2) of the Act.
- 13. That Section 15-55(c) of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that if the Secretary of State shall find that any person has violated any provision of this Act, the Secretary of State may by written order temporarily prohibit or suspend such person from acting as a loan broker.
- 14. That Section 15-55(d) of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that if the Secretary of State shall find any person is acting or has acted as a loan broker as defined in Section 15-5.15 of this Act, without prior thereto or at the time thereof having complied with the registration requirements of the Act, the Secretary of State may by written order prohibit such person from acting as a loan broker in the State.
- 15. That based upon the foregoing, the Secretary of State deems it necessary, in order to prevent imminent and additional violations of the Act, and to prevent losses to investors as a result of the referenced prior violation of the Act, to enter an order pursuant to the authority granted under Section 15-55(c) and Section 15-55(d) of the Act which prohibits Worldbanc Financial Group, LLP, its Officers, Directors, Employees, Affiliates, Successors, Agents and Assigns, and Gray Shelton, individually from acting as a loan broker in the State of Illinois.
- 16. That based upon the credible evidence available to the Secretary of State, the entry of this Temporary Order is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes of the Act.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT: pursuant to the authority granted by Section 15-55(c) and Section 15-55(d) of the Act, Worldbanc Financial Group, LLP, its Officers, Directors, Employees, Affiliates, Successors, Agents and Assigns, and Gray Shelton, individually have are hereby PROHIBITED from engaging in the business of loan brokering in the State of Illinois until further order of the Secretary of State.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Respondents may request a hearing on this matter by transmitting such request in writing to Securities Director, Illinois Securities Department, 69 West Washington Street, Suite 1220, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Such request must be made within thirty (30) days of the date of entry of this Temporary Order. Upon receipt of a request for hearing, a hearing will be scheduled. Request for hearing will not stop the effectiveness of this Temporary Order and will extend the effectiveness of this Temporary Order for ninety days from the date the hearing request is received by the Department.

FAILURE BY ANY RESPONDENT TO REQUEST A HEARING WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF THIS TEMPORARY ORDER SHALL CONSTITUTE AN ADMISSION OF ANY FACTS ALLEGED HEREIN AND CONSTITUTES SUFFICIENT BASIS TO MAKE THE TEMPORARY ORDER FINAL.

ENTERED: This 13th day of July, 2009.

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State
State of Illinois

Attorney for the Secretary of State:

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